Commercial generation of electricity based on this technology was not the immediate objective of the research and development project.

(b) MHD technology can be utilised, with further development, in conventional thermal power plants at the top-end of the cycle thereby increasing the possibility of obtaining higher efficiency.

(c) Does not arise.

Contracts of Book-stalls

6417. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. has been allotted a large number of book-stalls on railway stations against payment of about 3 per cent royalty;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run these book-stalls by itself or to allot to other priority categories or to float tenders on maturity of the present contract; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision has yet been taken in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Doubling of Jolarpettai-Bangalore Section

6418. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line between Jolarpettai and Bangalore is proposed to be doubled; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doubling on Jolarpettai-Bangalore (143 km) has been taken up in phases. Doubling between Bangalore city-Whitefield (23 km) and Jolarpettai-Kuppam (39 km) has already been completed. Doubling on balance portion between Kuppam and Whitefield (81 km) will be taken up in phases depending on operational requirements and availability of resources in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Triple Petroleum Agencies to one person in Bihar

6419. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given on March 5, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 1386 regarding allotment of petrol, diesel and kerosene agencies in Bihar and state:

(a) whether still there are cases of allotment of triple petroleum products agencies to one person in the name of various firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the erring officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No such fresh allotments are being made.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Upgradation of Pant Nagar Airstrip, U.P.

6420. SHRI V.N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Pant Nagar airstrip in Uttar Pradesh in the near future in view of heavy flow of tourists to hill areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortfall in Power Generation

6421. SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big shortfall in achieving the target for additional power production in 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the quantum of shortfall and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES(SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). During the year 1990-91, the total energy generation was 264231 million units, as against a target of 271250 million units, which represents a shortfall of 7019 million units. The main reason for shortfall were short supply of coal, low system demand and long duration outage of units due to equipment failure.

Profit earned by IRCON

6422. DR. G.L. KANAUJIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the railway projects undertaken by the company abroad during the last two years; and

(c) the time schedule within which these are to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The profit earned by IRCON during the three years is:-

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	*Pre-Tax*	*Post-Tax*
1987-88	26.28	14.31
1988-89	26.87	13.77
1989-90	20.46	17.88

Audit of accounts for 1990-91 is not yet over and Profit figure has not been worked out.